

AUTO REGISTRATION AND TITLE AND DRIVER’S LICENSING

Automobile licensing, title transfer, and registration are decentralized in Idaho. The rates vary by jurisdiction, but are modest compared to those of most states.

Service	Agency
Registration and Title Transfer	County Assessor
Driver’s Licenses	County Sheriff

RECREATION

Idaho is a haven for recreation enthusiasts. The northern portion has the greatest concentration of lakes in the West and evergreen forests abound. The Salmon River bisects the rugged Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness and provides some of the best whitewater, kayaking and rafting in the world. The beautiful Sawtooth Wilderness Area and the majestic White Cloud peaks provide additional opportunities for recreation. World-famous Sun Valley is located nearby.

Hells Canyon, the deepest river gorge in North America, lies on the state’s western border, overlooked by the Seven Devils Mountains. In the southwestern corner of Idaho are the tallest sand dunes on the continent. In the southeast is the Craters of the Moon National Monument, where America’s astronauts trained for moonwalks. Idaho has 16 alpine ski areas, over 200 miles of nordic trails, 464,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, 26,000 miles of fishing streams, 2,433 miles of floatable rivers, 25 state parks and 15 national forests.

Contact: Idaho Tourism Development Division, 700 W. State Street, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0093, (800) 714-3246. Web: visitidaho.org

Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707, 800-ASK-FISH. Web: fishandgame.idaho.gov

HISTORY

Idaho’s history is rich in texture, from the early preeminence of American Indians to the pioneer fur trappers, miners, loggers, railroad builders, and farmers who later populated the territory. Traces of Idaho history can still be viewed today in many parts of the state.

Contact: Idaho State Historical Society, 210 Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83702, (208) 334-2682. Web: idahohistory.net

CLIMATE

Idaho’s climate is diverse. It is influenced by Pacific weather patterns, which help moderate temperature extremes. Generally, the northern part of the state has greater precipitation than either southwestern or southeastern Idaho. The southern part of the state has warmer summer temperatures than the north and is drier throughout the year. Southeastern Idaho, however, tends to be cooler than the west and drier than the north. Idaho’s growing season varies from about 200 days near the city of Lewiston to very brief at high altitudes. Idaho has no hurricanes. Tornadoes and hailstorms are extremely rare. Winds may accompany cold fronts and thunderstorms. Geographically representative climate examples are:

	Elevation	Annual Mean Precipitation	Mean Snowfall	July Avg High Temp	Jan Avg Low Temp	July Avg Afternoon Humidity
Boise	2,840	12.1 in.	21.3 in.	90.2	21.6	22%
Coeur d’Alene	2,158	25.9 in.	52.2 in.	85.4	23.3	34%
Idaho Falls	4,730	10.9 in.	37.5 in.	86.0	10.0	25%
Lewiston	1,440	12.4 in.	19.8 in.	89.0	27.6	34%
Pocatello	4,450	12.1 in.	47.2 in.	88.1	14.4	38%
Twin Falls	3,670	10.4 in.	31.3 in.	85.0	18.6	27%

HOSPITALS

Idaho has 48 licensed hospitals. All but two Idaho communities with a population of more than 2,500 are within 13 miles of a hospital. The other two communities are within 16 miles of a hospital.

CRIME RATE

Idaho’s crime rate is the lowest in the West. In fact, according to FBI data, the rate of serious crime here is 30 percent less than the national average.

WATER QUALITY

Much of Idaho’s surface water flows out of the high mountains and is generally of high quality. People swim and fish in the center of Boise, the state’s largest city, and water-based sports are enjoyed throughout the state. In addition, high-quality ground water is pumped extensively for agriculture, industrial, and residential use from the Snake River Plain aquifer across southern Idaho and from the Rathdrum Prairie aquifer in the northern panhandle.

Contact: Department of Environmental Quality, 1410 N. Hilton, Boise, Idaho 83706, (208) 373-0502. Web: deq.idaho.gov

AIR QUALITY

Overall Idaho’s air quality is good throughout the year. A few locations experience winter temperature inversions, and in some localities pollen affects people with allergies.

Contact: Department of Environmental Quality, 1410 N. Hilton, Boise, Idaho 83706, (208) 373-0502. Web: deq.idaho.gov

COMMUTING TIME

The average commuting time from home to work in Idaho is 20 minutes.

CULTURE

Cultural activities in Idaho are as diverse as the state’s geography. World-famous resorts host first-class musical performers, theater, winter carnivals and art shows. Idaho is home to a symphony orchestra, opera and ballet companies, chamber music groups, and a summer Shakespeare festival. Culture comes in many forms throughout the state: jazz and bluegrass music, big-name stars, nationally recognized music festivals, community theater, rodeos, county fairs and professional sports.

Contact: Idaho Tourism Development Division, 700 W. State Street, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0093, (800) 714-3246. Web: visitidaho.org

EDUCATION

Idaho has a highly educated populace. Among the 50 states, Idaho ranks 21st for percentage of adults aged 25 and older who have graduated from high school (87.3 percent). Fifty-eight percent of the state’s total general fund is allocated to education. Idaho students score well above the national average on the SAT. Nearly 97 percent of Idaho’s school-age children attend public schools, demonstrating a high level of public confidence and ensuring a demographically balanced student population.

Almost every city with a population over 20,000 has a college or university. Off-campus programs are available at convenient locations throughout the state. Idaho’s universities and colleges bring training, research and technical assistance programs within reach via computer, telecommunications and video. University Place in Idaho Falls provides programs through the University of Idaho and Idaho State University.

There are six professional-technical training centers. These centers provide training at business facilities off-campus. In addition to Eastern Idaho Technical College in Idaho Falls, professional-technical programs are offered through Boise State University, Idaho State University, College of Southern Idaho, North Idaho College, and Lewis-Clark State College. A new community college, College of Western Idaho, is slated to begin offering classes in fall 2008.

Contacts:

Primary and secondary school information: Superintendent of Public Instruction, Room 200, Len B. Jordan Building, 650 W. State Street, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0027, (208) 332-6800. Web: sde.idaho.gov

Colleges and universities: Office of the State Board of Education, Room 307, Len B. Jordan Building, 650 W. State Street, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0037, (208) 334-2270. Web: boardofed.idaho.gov

University and college catalogs may be obtained by writing to each institution.

Professional-technical education programs and certificates: Idaho Division of Professional-Technical Education, Room 324, Len B. Jordan Building, 650 W. State Street, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0095, (208) 334-3216. Web: pte.idaho.gov

Recent full-time equivalent (FTE) college academic enrollment data is shown below:

Public Universities	2007 FTE Enrollment
Boise State University Boise, ID	14,230
University of Idaho Moscow, ID	10,078
Idaho State University Pocatello, ID	9,313
Public Four-Year College	2007 FTE Enrollment
Lewis-Clark State College Lewiston, ID	2,607
Public Community Colleges	2007 FTE Enrollment
North Idaho College Coeur d’Alene, ID	3,195
College of Southern Idaho Twin Falls, ID	3,775
Eastern Idaho Technical College Idaho Falls, ID	507
Private Universities	2007 FTE Enrollment
Northwest Nazarene University Nampa, ID	1,643
BYU-Idaho Rexburg, ID	11,791
Private Four-Year Colleges	2007 FTE Enrollment
College of Idaho Caldwell, ID	801
Boise Bible College Boise, ID	162



For the addresses of community chambers of commerce or for demographic and economic information pertaining to specific counties and communities, please contact:

Idaho Department of Commerce
700 W. State Street
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0093
(208) 334-2470

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Upon request, information in this pamphlet will be provided in alternative formats for persons with disabilities.

Idaho Department of Commerce is an equal opportunity employer.

IDAHO AT A GLANCE



Facts and Figures about living and working in Idaho.

C.L. “BUTCH” OTTER Governor



IDAHO AT A GLANCE

We are pleased to have the opportunity to answer your questions about living and working in this beautiful part of America. We hope you find the following information useful.

EMPLOYMENT

Idaho has a strong and diversified economy. While the traditional resource-based industries of agriculture, forest products, and mining continue to contribute to the economy, high-tech, tourism, retail trade, health services, business to business and information-oriented services are among the growth sectors. As in any economy, employment growth in Idaho is not uniform. In the past few years, some counties experienced strong positive growth, some remained unchanged, and some experienced declines. After slow nonfarm employment growth in 2002 and 2003, growth in 2004 through 2006 was robust, adding over 27,000 jobs in 2006, at a change rate of 4.4%, statewide. In 2007 and 2008 it is expected to grow at an annual rate of 2.3%, a rate that is expected to exceed the national average.

For employment opportunities in both the public and private sectors, contact the Idaho Department of Labor at 317 W. Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735. It has 24 job service offices strategically distributed throughout the state to assist you. Addresses and phone numbers for the job service offices can be found in the Labor Directory on its home page at labor.idaho.gov. Idaho's larger communities are also served by excellent private firms that match job seekers with employment opportunities in the private sector.

AVERAGE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

	2006
Civilian Labor Force.....	749,244
Unemployment.....	25,623
Percent Unemployment.....	3.4%
Total Employment	723,621

NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Annual Average	2006
Total	639,541
Construction.....	52,130
Manufacturing	66,101
Retail & Wholesale Trade	107,542
Transportation & Warehousing	18,025
Financial Activities.....	31,846
Professional & Business Services.....	81,676
Educational & Health Services.....	70,187
Leisure & Hospitality Services.....	59,836
Government	116,415

AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

	2006
Construction	\$20.02
Manufacturing	16.80
Retail Trade	12.58
Wholesale Trade	18.91
Transportation & Warehousing	17.28
Financial Services	18.80
Professional & Business Services	19.12
Educational & Health Services	17.38
Leisure & Hospitality Services	9.75
Information	23.23

MEDIAN HOURLY WAGE BY OCCUPATION

	2007
Financial managers.....	\$29.57
General & operations managers.....	25.63
Computer programmers	27.22
Computer systems analysts.....	29.76
Electronics engineers.....	34.68
Accountants & auditors	20.64
Retail salespersons.....	9.34
Office clerks, general	10.96
Cashiers.....	7.86
Exec. secretaries & admin. assistants.....	14.47
Receptionists & information clerks	9.97
Electrical & electronic equip. assemblers	10.89
Assemblers & fabricators	11.49
Electricians	21.95
Helpers, construction trades.....	13.04
Carpenters.....	14.39
Welders, cutters, solderers, & brazers	14.60
Truck drivers, heavy & tractor-trailer	14.51
Logging equipment operators.....	18.66
Crushing, grinding & polishing machine setters, operators, & tenders.....	14.85
Janitors & cleaners.....	9.44
Registered nurses	24.07
Child, family, & school social workers	16.47
Medical & clinical lab technicians.....	14.25
Nursing aides, orderlies, & attendants	9.23
Cooks, restaurant	9.44

POPULATION

STATE OF IDAHO (2006).....		1,466,465
Largest Cities	7/1/06	% Change 00-06
Boise City	198,638	1.65%
Nampa	76,587	40.27%
Meridian	59,832	64.21%
Pocatello	53,932	4.52%
Idaho Falls	52,786	3.53%
Coeur d'Alene	41,328	18.08%
Twin Falls	40,380	15.76%
Caldwell.....	37,056.....	35.65%
Lewiston.....	31,293	1.4%
Rexburg	26,657	50.83%
Post Falls	24,515	35.96%
Moscow	22,352	4.82%
Eagle	18,419.....	48.64%
Hayden	12,349.....	31.79%
Ammon	12,065	87.29%
Mountain Home	11,656	1.81%
Kuna.....	11,510	89.09%
Garden City.....	11,353	6.2%
Blackfoot.....	11,007	4.97%
Chubbuck.....	10,861	11.98%

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The yellow pages of telephone books provide an excellent profile of economic activity and employment possibilities for most communities. New residents also will find the local newspapers useful. Below are the addresses of Idaho's largest daily newspapers.

Boise	The Idaho Statesman P.O. Box 40 Boise, Idaho 83707 (208) 377-6200 Web: idahostatesman.com	Moscow	The Moscow-Pullman Daily News P.O. Box 8187 Moscow, Idaho 83843 (208) 882-5561 Web: dnews.com
Coeur d'Alene	The Coeur d'Alene Press P.O. Box 7000 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814 (208) 664-8176 Web: cdapress.com	Nampa	The Idaho Press-Tribune P.O. Box 9399 Nampa, Idaho 83652 (208) 467-9251 Web: idahopress.com
Idaho Falls	The Post Register P.O. Box 1800 Idaho Falls, Idaho 83403 (208) 522-1800 Web: idahonews.com	Pocatello	The Idaho State Journal P.O. Box 431 Pocatello, Idaho 83204 (208) 232-4161 Web: journalnet.com
Lewiston	The Lewiston Morning Tribune P.O. Box 957 Lewiston, Idaho 83501 (208) 743-9411 Web: lmtribune.com	Twin Falls	The Times-News P.O. Box 548 Twin Falls, Idaho 83303 (208) 733-0931 Web: magicvalley.com

Another useful source of information is the **Idaho Blue Book**. In just over 300 pages, it describes Idaho's history, government, economy, educational system, and recreational opportunities. It can be obtained for \$10.00 payable to the Secretary of State, P.O. Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0080. Sections of the book are also available online at <http://www.sos.idaho.gov/elect/bluebook.htm>.

COST OF LIVING

On the basis of average housing costs, utilities, health care, transportation, groceries, and other services, Idaho's cost of living is the lowest of the eleven western states. Boise's cost of living is 96.6 percent of the national average, Idaho Falls' is 92.8 percent and Twin Falls' is 95.8 percent. The chart at the right provides a comparison of the relative cost of living in the western states averaged over four consecutive quarters for the participating cities within those states.

Source: ACCRA Cost of Living Index 3rd quarter 2006 thru 2nd quarter 2007.

INDEX	
ID	94.8
UT	98.3
NAT'L	100.0
NM	101.7
MT	101.7
WY	101.9
CO	102.1
WA	104.0
AZ	105.2
NV	108.1
OR	110.4
CA	135.9

TAXES

The combined total of state and local taxes on income, property, sales, and autos for a family of four with a \$25,000 annual income in Boise is lower than that in the largest city of 41 other states, including the District of Columbia. For a family with an income level of \$50,000, the total tax is lower than that in the largest city of 28 other states. For a family with an income level of \$75,000, it is lower than that in the largest city of 27 other states. For a family with an income level of \$100,000, it is lower than that in the largest city of 24 other states.

Source: District of Columbia Government, Office of Revenue Analysis, 2005.

In fiscal year 2004, 25 of the 50 states had higher overall taxes per \$1,000 of total personal income than Idaho. Only eight states had lower overall taxes per capita.

Source: Idaho State Annual Report.

PROPERTY TAXES

Below are average property tax rates within the following communities:

Boise.....	1.253%	Moscow	1.700%
Coeur d'Alene8328%	Mountain Home	1.807%
Idaho Falls	1.708%	Rexburg	1.482%
Lewiston	1.857%	Burley	1.516%
Nampa.....	1.743%	Blackfoot	2.408%
Pocatello	2.064%		
Twin Falls	1.489%		

Because of the homeowner's exemption, these rates are applied to 50 percent of the first \$178,650 of market value of owner-occupied primary homes, including the home site. In 2008, the homeowner's exemption will increase to 50 percent of the first \$201,876 of the market value of such primary homes, including the home site.

Source: Idaho State Tax Commission: Average Urban Tax Rate (by County) -2007.

INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX

Idaho's income tax base closely parallels the definition used by the federal government. In general, the same income is taxed and the same deductions are allowed. The Idaho tax rates range from 1.6 percent to 7.8 percent of taxable income. The maximum rate begins at \$23,963 for single filers and \$47,926 for married couples and heads of households. Idaho income tax brackets are indexed for inflation each year.

Contact: Idaho State Tax Commission, P.O. Box 36, Boise, Idaho 83722, 1-800-972-7660. Web: tax.idaho.gov

HOUSING

Since property values vary tremendously from community to community and even within a community, we suggest you contact a real estate broker in your locality who is a member of a national relocation network. As a free service, the broker can put you in touch with qualified real estate professionals in specific Idaho communities. Idaho's housing costs are moderate and affordable, and homes are available from modest cottages to executive estates. The following table portrays the average house value in geographically representative Idaho communities:

2006 AVERAGE SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSING COST

Community (County)	Median Value	Mean Value
Blackfoot (Bingham)	\$100,104	\$111,538
Boise (Ada)	\$212,825	\$245,640
Burley (Cassia)	\$87,525	\$103,322
Coeur d'Alene (Kootenai)	\$211,120	\$268,046
Idaho Falls (Bonneville)	\$128,775	\$149,320
Ketchum/Sun Valley (Blaine)	\$517,210	\$812,124
Lewiston (Nez Perce)	\$132,773	\$145,297
Moscow (Latah)	\$164,850	\$175,209
Mountain Home (Elmore)	\$133,355	\$139,389
Nampa/Caldwell (Canyon)	\$148,712	\$167,194
Pocatello (Bannock)	\$110,483	\$129,288
Rexburg (Madison)	\$141,060	\$153,191
Sandpoint (Bonner)	\$235,000	\$308,286
Twin Falls (Twin Falls)	\$128,650	\$143,012

Source: Idaho State Tax Commission: Improved Residential Property Sales Prices, 2006.

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY COSTS

Idaho provides a substantial energy cost advantage over much of the nation. Natural gas rates are competitive and residential electric rates are among the lowest in the country. Rates vary regionally as the following data demonstrate:

Region	Natural Gas	Electricity
SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO	\$68.14/mo (65 Therms/mo)	\$55.10/mo (1,000 KWH/mo)
NORTHERN IDAHO	\$78.79/mo (65 Therms/mo)	\$63.06/mo (1,000 KWH/mo)
SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO	\$68.14/mo* (65 Therms/mo)	\$54.95/mo* (1,000 KWH/mo)

*Weighted avg. of summer & winter rates. However, the electric rates for the majority of the population of southeastern Idaho are the same as for southwestern Idaho.

Estimates for natural gas reflect rates effective for year 2007. Estimates for electricity reflect annual average rates for 2006-07 as reported by the three major utility companies.